

Unit 3, Reading 4 Brain Development and Learning a Second Language

Answers from Laura

Getting a first idea about the article

35246

While you read

Especially since the 1970's: . . .

it is possible and quite common for adults to achieve a high degree of success in learning SL grammar and vocabulary. The same degree of success, though, is apparently unattainable in SL phonology; adult SL speakers who sound like native speakers are extremely rare (par.1, lines 5-15)

This phenomenon

(note: same as above)

The theory

Name: the critical period theory.

Explanation: the acquisition of native-speaker pronunciation . . . a language

The cerebral lateralization

is the process . . . spatial perception.

implications

It suggests strongly that learners need . . . before their teens
older learners are unlikely ever to achieve that goal.

Main idea check

426135

A closer look

1.

- a) Cerebral lateralization: Cerebral lateralization is the process by which the two hemispheres of the brain increasingly specialize in particular functions. (Par.3, lines 7-12)
- b) Aphasia: a loss of language abilities associated with brain damage from injury or disease.
- c) Hemispherectomy: surgery to remove one hemisphere of the brain.

2. False

3. A/B/C

4. B/C

5. B/C/D

6- (par. 3)

Vocabulary study: Synonyms

1. conflicting
2. dispute
3. evidence for Provided that
4. rare remarkable
5. remarkable critical
6. proponents
7. permanently
8. localize
9. undergo
10. flexibility
11. regain
12. limited
13. unlikely implication(s)
14. halt
15. reward

Vocabulary review: Same or different

1. S
2. D
3. D
4. D
5. S
6. D
7. S
8. S